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CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~COUNTRY East GermanyREPORT NO. TOPIC Information on the Potsdam-Miche Reconnaissance Battalion of KVP Division Potsdam

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED DATE OF CONTENT DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 5 March 1954REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

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1. The reconnaissance battalion of KVP Division Potsdam, also referred to as S-1 Battalion, was stationed in Potsdam-Miche. The commanding officer of KVP Division Potsdam was Colonel Ernst (fnu). The division was assigned to the Ministry of the Interior in Berlin.

2. In December 1953, the organization and strength of the Reconnaissance Battalion was as follows:

	Officers	WOPs	MM
Headquarters	25	5	15
Supply Section		5	15
Instruction Company (only cadre personnel)	5	10	
1st Motorcycle Co	5	11	57
2d Mtl Co	5	11	57
Tank Company	5	3	25
Armored Scout Car Company	6	11	45
AT Company	2	3	25

The unit was said to be below authorized strength.

3. Officers assigned to the Reconnaissance Battalion included:

Major Meisel (fnu), CO;
 Captain Neumann (fnu), chief of staff;
 Senior Lieutenant Baumgaertl (fnu), 1st assistant chief of staff;
 Lieutenant Gebauer (fnu), CO, 2d Mtl Co.

4. Weapons and motor vehicles available to the unit included 8 tanks and 87 guns, besides an undetermined number of armored personnel carriers and armored scout cars; 70 sidecar motorcycles with a displacement of 750 cubic cm; 5 model BM motorcycles with a displacement of 500 cubic cm, used for driving school; 2 model MB-150 tank trucks with trailers; and 6 model G-5 trucks. All the motor vehicles were in serviceable condition. The number of sidecar motorcycles available to the unit was below the authorized strength.

5. About 25 percent of the personnel belonged to the 1934, 1935 and 1934 classes each; 10 percent to the 1933 class, while 15 percent belonged to older year classes. About 80 percent of the personnel had served less than 3 years, the remainder from 3 to 5 years.

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A total of 20 percent each of the personnel came from Saxony-Anhalt, Saxony, Mecklenburg and Brandenburg, while 10 percent each came from Thuringia and Berlin. About 15 percent followed the SED line, 50 percent were indifferent, while 35 percent were secret opponents of the regime. The morale of the soldiers was rather poor; they resented their poor food, the behaviour of their officers, their political brain washing and excessive duty hours. No Soviet advisor was attached to the unit.

6. In December 1953, almost exclusively driving school on motorcycles was conducted. In mid-December, an alert was given at 4 a.m. Subsequently the unit marched to Golm and then returned. The installation at Potsdam-Eiche also quartered the signal battalion, bakery company, medical battalion and the tank repair shop of KVP Division Potsdam.

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[REDACTED] Comment. The Reconnaissance Battalion in Potsdam-Eiche is organized after the Soviet pattern. The unit had about 80 percent of its authorized strength. The Reconnaissance Battalion and the other component units of KVP Division Potsdam mentioned in the present report are stationed at the barracks installation in Golm.

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